THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). In view of inadequate facilities in the existing building, a decision was taken to shift the Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad to a new building being constructed as an office-cum-residential complex on a plot of land acquired at a cost of Rs. 77,77,726/- from the Municipal Corporation, Ahmedabad. The estimated cost of the project as per 1993 estimates is Rs. 3,05,96,000. As per Government practice the construction work for the project has been handed over to the C.P.W.D. Ahmedabad and construction has commenced.

**Old Heritage Havelis**

3399. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Culture has prepared any plan for preserving/upkeeping the old heritage havelis in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such havelis identified by the Government in each State;

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the efforts being made by the Government of Gujarat to retrieve such havelis in Patan, Baroda, Ahmedabad, Surat, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar in Gujarat;

(d) if so, the financial assistance sought by the State Government and acceded to by the Union Government on this account;

(e) whether the Government propose to take over such havelis; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f). Question does not arise.

**Only University in a State**

3400. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for development and building up infrastructure of the only University in the State has been submitted by the Government of Tripura;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether there is any contemplation to convert the State University into a Central University; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Indo-Iran Initiative on Afghanistan**

3401. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Iran have made any joint initiative to stop civil strife in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Foreign Ministers of India and Iran have discussed the supply of arms by foreign countries to Afghanistan; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d). As part of a continuing process of exchange of views on issues of regional and international concern, India and Iran have held discussions on the situation in Afghanistan. India participated in a regional conference called by Iran on Afghanistan on October 29-30, 1996, in Tehran. The conference called for the immediate cessation of violence, armed hostilities and an end to all foreign interference in Afghanistan.

*[English]*

**Graduates in Industrial Chemistry**

3402. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate number of candidates who complete B.Sc. degree in Industrial Chemistry in the country, State-wise;

(b) the gap between demand and supply of such graduates;

(c) the opportunities for graduates in Industrial Chemistry in public, private and Government sector; and

(d) the time by which these candidates are proposed to be covered by apprenticeship Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.